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Betts, Earl 13/69
X Reynolds, Sen Robert

22 March 1944

Hon. Robert R. Reynolds,
 United States Senate,
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Reynolds:

We have given careful consideration to the qualifications of Major Earl Betts. As you noted in your original letter, he has had wide experience in the purchasing, selling, warehousing and manufacture of textiles in their various stages. These qualifications were also borne out by a detailed personal history statement which we obtained from him. Unfortunately, however, we have already filled all positions in which we might have used a man with such qualifications. I am very sorry that this is the case, since he is undoubtedly a man of real ability in his field.

Our file on Major Betts will be retained in an active status, and should a position arise in which he could be utilized to the fullest degree, we certainly shall give him further consideration.

It was very good of you to have called him to our attention.

Very truly yours,

William J. Donovan
 Director

Banc:rla
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ROBERT R. REYNOLDS, N. C., CHAIRMAN
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 JOHN THOMAS, IOWA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

March 17, 1944.

Dear General Donovan:

Under date of December 28, 1943, I note you suggesting that the file of Major Earl Betts be examined to determine whether his experience could be used in your "services", and you replied January 13th that the file would be examined.

I write now to ascertain what decision you have arrived at and whether there is any possibility of your office requesting his assignment under your jurisdiction.

I understand that Major Betts is available for reassignment.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert R. Reynolds
 Robert R. Reynolds, U.S.S.

Brig. Gen. William J. Donovan,
 Director, Office of Strategic Services,
 25th and E Streets, N. W.,
 Washington, D. C.

Re: Earl 13, 169
Reynolds, Earl

*Re: Betts, 3-62
V. Reynolds, Jan 8, 1944*

13 January 1944.

Senator Robert R. Reynolds,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Reynolds:

In General Donovan's absence I should like to acknowledge your letter of 28 December 1943, suggesting an examination of the personnel file of Mr. Earl R. Betts.

We are asking our Personnel Procurement officers to examine Mr. Betts' file at the War Department so that we may determine whether his qualifications meet our present personnel requirements.

Thank you for calling Mr. Betts to our attention.

Very truly yours,

G. Edward Buxton,
Acting Director.

Bancroft

COPY

*Letter to Gen. J. Donovan
12/28/43*

UNITED STATES SENATE

Committee on Military Affairs

December 28, 1943.

Dear General:

Understanding that your "Services" are in need of additional officer personnel, I suggest the examination of the personnel file of Earl R. Betts. Possibly his textile experience could be used to advantage.

With cordial best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Robert R. Reynolds

Robert R. Reynolds, USS.

Brig. Gen. William J. Donovan,
Director, Office of Strategic Services,
25th and E Streets, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Betts Earl - 13169
Reynolds

1 January 1944.

Col. Connely.

Secretariat.

The attached letter from Senator Robert R. Reynolds to General Donovan seems to indicate that we have a file on Mr. Earl R. Betts. If that is not the case, we will want to communicate with Senator Reynolds asking him to have Mr. Betts transmit a personal history statement to us.

Upon your advice concerning any information that you may have on Mr. Bett's comments, we shall prepare a reply to Senator Reynolds for the signature of the Director or Acting Director.

C. A. Bane,
Lt. (jg) USNR

BAHE:rla

Berry, Clifford J 13,683
~~SECRET~~

12 February 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Sergeant Clifford J. Berry

SUBJECT:

Orders

1. You are hereby authorized and directed to proceed to the destination indicated in your military orders, where you will report to the Chief of OSS for that theater of operations. You are, thereafter, to act under the instructions of the Chief of OSS for such theater.

G. EDWARD BUXTON
 Acting Director

APPROVED:

J. M. Belmont,
 Deputy Director, SSO

W. J. Davis, III, Lt. Col., MA,
 Deputy Chief, SO

Carl O. Hoffmann, Major, AUS,
 Far East Theater Officer

SECRET

Baglin, Douglas W. 13/627

SECRET

Date: Feb. 7, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Douglas Wolf Baglin

SUBJECT: Orders

1. You are hereby authorized and directed to proceed to London, England, where you will report to the Strategic Services Officer for the European Theater of Operations. You are, thereafter, to act under the instructions of the Strategic Services Officer for the European Theater.

G. Edward Buxton
Acting Director

APPROVED

Walter Bodfish
Walter Bodfish
Deputy Chief, WD Branch

APPROVED

J. A. Scribner
J. A. Scribner
Deputy Director, SSO

John D. Wilson
John D. Wilson
European Theater Officer

SECRET

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
Washington, D.C.

Service, Grand 13,624

CONFIDENTIAL

14 February 1964

MEMORANDUM

TO: SS/c Gerard J. Bomier, USNR, 761-58-58
SUBJECT: Orders

1. You are hereby authorized and directed to proceed to Algiers, North Africa, where you will report to the Strategic Services Officer for the North African Theater of Operations. You are, thereafter, to act under the instructions of the Strategic Services Officer for the North African Theater.

G. EDWARD BUNTON
Acting Director

APPROVED:

J. H. Sarban
Deputy Director, SSC

William F. Davis III
Deputy Chief, SS
Lt. Colonel, P.A.

Edward R. Murphy, Capt USAF
Major, AM
North African Theater Officer

EMH:lp

CONFIDENTIAL

EXCERPTS FROM
BRITISH DISCUSSIONS ON THE MAINTENANCE OF
FULL EMPLOYMENT AFTER THE WAR

In a modern industrial society an individual's ability to earn a living is as much dependent upon general economic factors over which he has no direct control as on his own initiative and qualifications. The bitter experience of an economic breakdown in the thirties which deprived millions of people of the opportunity to work for a living and the contrast presented by the full employment attained during the war are largely responsible for the nearly universal opinion in Great Britain that the chief long-run post-war problem facing the Government will be the prevention of serious unemployment. Speaking for the Government, The Chancellor of the Exchequer said in January 1943: "The basic objective that we must set ourselves is active employment for the people of the country." (1)

DEFINITION OF FULL EMPLOYMENT

The Economist (October 3, 1942) points out that a state of "full employment" is compatible with seasonal unemployment and transitional unemployment, but not with depressed areas. There is general agreement on this point, and it is the prevention of "mass unemployment" that at present concerns the British people. Beveridge's "Assumption C", without which "no satisfactory scheme of social security can be devised", is the "maintenance of employment, that is to say, the avoidance of mass unemployment."

Mass unemployment may exist on a national scale as a result of a general trade depression (cyclical unemployment), or on a regional scale as a result of depression in a particular industry (structural unemployment). Most of the discussions are concerned principally with cyclical unemployment, and this report is confined to the cyclical problem.

"The Government, in aiming at regularizing economic life, should never aim at regularizing it at top speed. The social machinery cannot stand this continuously any better than other machinery can. The problem with which post-war Governments will be confronted is not only how to solve the unemployment problem by regularizing economic activity, but also how to find the way from the dislocated conditions created by the war to the level of peace-time economic activity and employment that can reasonably be expected to be neither over nor understrained.... No mathematical formula can be found to define this level, because amongst other reasons, the conditions under which

(1) PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES, House of Commons, Vol. 386, No. 24, February 2, 1943, Col. 814.

it will have to be established itself are as yet unknown. It is in this field that economic policy will have to stand its test." (pp. 21, 22)

CYCLICAL UNEMPLOYMENT

"Mass" unemployment arising from cyclical fluctuations in business activity is universally agreed to be the most devastating kind of unemployment from the economic and social point of view and the most difficult to handle. "Structural" unemployment arising in depressed areas and depressed industries can be dealt with only if a reasonably high level of full employment exists, in the country generally. Consequently the causes and cures of the business cycle are the center of most of the discussions on full employment.

There is a surprisingly wide agreement in regard to the nature of cyclical fluctuations and the measures required to deal with them.

Fluctuations in Investment

It has, of course, been long remarked by economists that activity in capital goods industries and in raw material producing industries fluctuates much more violently than activity in other sectors of the economy. Furthermore, as has been demonstrated by Alvin Hansen and others, decreases and increases in investment tend to precede in time the corresponding movements of consumption. From the data made available by the researches of economists, it is now universally concluded that fluctuations in general economic activity are caused by fluctuations in investment. It therefore follows that employment can be stabilized by stabilizing the rate of investment.

INVESTMENT POLICY

It is generally agreed that the policy adopted by the Government to stabilize investment must include considerably more than a prepared program of public works. Measures designed to maintain the profitability of private investment in general, the extension of public ownership, the control of certain types of industry, appropriate coordination of fiscal and budgetary policy, and the creation of a National Investment Board to coordinate all investment activities and draw up a scale of priorities are the chief suggestions put forward in the British discussions.

CONSUMPTION POLICY

This discussion so far has been concerned with full employment policy entirely from the investment side, and as if full employment were the sole goal of economic activity. It is obvious however that the ultimate purpose of economic activity is to satisfy the needs and wants of human beings, and consequently the value of full employment to the community can be greater or smaller, depending on the extent to which its members are employed in producing goods most essential for raising the standard of living. Although full employment might be attained by an appropriate investment policy, many people believe that a policy designed to increase the proportion of the national products going into consumption would result in a more progressive and better balanced economy, and would assist in maintaining economic stability. A "consumption policy" in this sense is not generally

advocated as an alternative to an investment policy but as a supplement to it. For this reason, all of the discussions urge an adequate social security program to maintain the money incomes of individuals in times of stress, and most of them recommend that measures should be taken to effect greater equality of income distribution.

PROBLEMS ARISING IF A FULL EMPLOYMENT POLICY IS MAINTAINED

Inflationary Tendencies

In a state of full employment inflationary tendencies will arise if there is an increase in effective demand unaccompanied by technical improvements which will enable an increase in output to take place, since output cannot by hypothesis be increased by using previously employed factors of production. In these circumstances the increase in demand (i.e., purchasing power in the hands of consumers) must be the result of an increase in the cost of production of an unchanged quantity of goods and services and must therefore lead to a rise in prices, which may start what is called the "vicious spiral of wages and prices". A correspondent of The Times has this point in mind when he points out (January 23, 1943) that full employment would result in a substantial change in the workers' bargaining position, and if "free wage-bargaining, as we have known it hitherto, is continued in conditions of full employment, there would be a constant upward pressure on money wage-rates... Unemployment in a private enterprise economy has... indirectly the function of preserving the value of money."

The inflationary tendencies with which the British discussions are concerned do not include a mere rise of costs and prices resulting from the increased use of marginal factors of production as full employment is approached. They are concerned with the rise in prices that comes from an increase in effective demand when output can no longer be appreciably increased. In other words, a desire on the part of the people to increase consumption without decreasing investment. This of course would cause no difficulty if technological developments made possible an increase in output with the same or a smaller supply of labor or other factors of production - a situation that is characteristic of modern industrial progress. If, however, techniques remained unchanged or changed slowly in a given period, it would still be perfectly feasible if the community desired to increase its consumption for the central government to take measures to reduce the level of investment. It is in this connection that the statistical techniques, with the aid of which a "balance sheet" of the national economy can be drawn up and an estimate of the position in the near future be made, become important.

The _____ report states that if the

"...phenomena of economic life confirm that a boom is on the way, the Government should apply the following remedies, the dosage being adapted to their effectiveness:-

- "(1) Monetary Measures. The credit basis of the monetary system should be reduced - or, to begin with, its extension checked, the rate of interest should be allowed to rise; the use of credit for various purposes should be curtailed.
- "(11) Budgetary Measures. The "extraordinary" budget should be over-covered by raising taxation;

the rate of depreciation allowed on new capital investment for taxation purposes should be reduced, if necessary to zero, or even such capital expenditure should be taxed.

"(iii) Government Investments. Capital expenditure by the Government (central or local), or controlled by the Government, should be slowed down or stopped." (pp 24-25)

Even The Economist considers the "old monetary techniques ...too indirect, too blunt in their action", and therefore sees no alternative but "direct physical control of all investment." How extensively this control will in fact be exercised will depend on the measures required to stabilize the economy in any given period.

Flexibility of the Economy

Defence against unemployment in the past has frequently taken the form of protection of the status quo regardless of efficiency, restriction of output in order to maintain prices, restrictionist trade union regulations, and tariffs. That these would be disastrous methods of maintaining full employment after the war is fully recognized in Great Britain. It is stressed over and over again that full employment must be made compatible with economic change and that Government measures to promote mobility of labor and flexibility in industry will be necessary. "What emerges most clearly from recent experience is the incompatibility of full employment with restrictive industrial policies." (The Times, January 28, 1943) Restrictive measures are one of the dangers of so-called industrial self-government.

INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF A DOMESTIC FULL EMPLOYMENT POLICY

For Great Britain an extensive international trade is the sine qua non of domestic prosperity, since a large export trade is essential in order to provide the imports required to maintain, let alone improve, the pre-war standards of living. In these circumstances, Great Britain must develop her export industries. Full employment in these industries, however, will depend on economic conditions in the export markets and these are not subject to the direct influence of a domestic full employment policy. Here then lies the greatest handicap to a successful full employment policy in Great Britain. If a reasonable level of employment is not maintained in those countries to which Britain must sell if she wishes to buy, she will be faced with the choice of supporting unemployed workers in the export industries or of transferring them to other industries. The latter policy would have an adverse effect on the ability of export industries to meet demand for their products when employment improved abroad, but the former policy might result in considerable continued unemployment.

CONCLUSION

In the British discussions of the problem of maintaining full employment there is a universal assumption that full employment can be attained--that mass unemployment is not an unavoidable social evil. Furthermore, there is nearly unanimous agreement that full employment can be achieved without resorting to complete Government control of all economic activity. Sir William Beveridge insists that the methods of ensuring full employment must be subject "to the preservation of essential citizen liberties",

which he lists as "freedom of worship, speech, writing, study and teaching; freedom of assembly and of association for political and other purposes, including the bringing about of a peaceful change of the governing authority; freedom in choice of occupation; and freedom in the management of a personal income." The existence of these "freedom", he maintains, makes the problem of maintaining full employment more complex than it would be in a totalitarian society. Nonetheless, the sacrifice of them in the interests of simplicity would not be acceptable in Great Britain.

Freedom to change Governments, freedom to associate for industrial purposes; freedom to choose any occupation and freedom to manage personal income are especially important in connection with full employment policy.

EXCERPTS FROM ENCLOSURE NO. 1 to
BRITISH DISCUSSIONS ON THE MAINTENANCE OF FULL
EMPLOYMENT AFTER THE WAR

NUFFIELD COLLEGE

WARTIME RESEARCH COMMITTEE
AND SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION SURVEY

MEMORANDUM FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE CONFERENCE
ON THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF POST-WAR
EMPLOYMENT POLICY SEPTEMBER 11th-12th, 1943

FULL PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT IN A FREE SOCIETY¹

2. "Full employment" in this description does not imply the absence of any unemployment. In almost every country, seasonal influences will affect the demand for labour in particular occupations at certain times of the year. In any changing progressive society there will be changes in the demand for labour qualitatively if not quantitatively; that is to say there will be periods during which particular individuals can no longer be advantageously employed in their former occupations and may be idle until they find or fit themselves for fresh occupations. In a footnote to the Nuffield College statement on Employment Policy and Organization of Industry after the War, full employment is described as "a state of affairs in which the number of unfilled vacancies is not appreciably below the number of unemployed persons, so that unemployment at any time is due to the normal lag between a person losing one job and finding another". This description can be accepted. It has the merit of emphasising as the essence of full employment the positive feature of a strong demand for labour. If full employment in this sense could be maintained, the residual interval unemployment could be dealt with adequately by unemployment insurance.

3. The requirement of "rising standards of living" implies that the employment secured should be productive and progressive. It excluded a solution of the problem by occupation which is merely time-wasting (digging holes and filling them) or destructive (war, armaments and Nazi drilling). While the memorandum assumes that standards of living will continue to be raised by continuing technical advance, it is not directly concerned with methods for securing the efficiency of industry. These, while important, are only directly relevant to the problem of full employment. Another factor, economic rather than technical, which has contributed materially to raising standards of living in the past, is international trade based on division of labour and specialisation. This factor calls for full discussion, particularly in relation to Britain. In this memorandum it is dealt with briefly in paragraphs 34-37.

4. The precise effect of the proviso for "preservation of essential citizen liberties" depends of course on the list of essential citizen liberties. For the purpose of this study they are taken as freedom of worship, speech, writing, study and teaching; freedom of assembly and of association for political and other purposes, including the bringing about of a peaceful change of the governing authority; freedom in choice of occupation; and

1- In the preparation of this draft for discussion frequent use has been made of a typescript Memorandum of Mr. E.F. Schumacher, indicated in references by the letter "S".

freedom in the management of a personal income. The proviso excludes the totalitarian solution of full employment in a society completely planned and regimented by an irremovable dictator. It makes the problem more complex in many ways, of which four call for special notice.

8. Fourth, freedom in the management of a personal income raises the issue which Lord Keynes has made the centre of argument among economists today of off-setting in one way or another the savings made by innumerable individual decisions, so that the community as a whole returns "to the income stream in each period as much as it received in previous periods"; failure to secure this return involves "a cumulative downward spiral of income and employment" ¹. A totalitarian regime, even if it used money and price and wage differentials to stimulate and guide individual activity, might abolish freedom of saving. It might retain from the national income of each year that portion which it needed for investment, i.e. for the sustenance of persons engaged in making instruments and materials of further production, and might issue to consumers money which like ration coupons could be used only in specified periods and could not be saved. In a free society individuals must be allowed to plan their spending over their lives as a whole.

The Optimism of Economists

12. There was a time when economists generally were regarded as dismal fellow, as raisers of objections and difficulties, as tedious embodiments of "*der Geist der stets verneint*". There are no doubt some economists who still abide by this tradition. The prevailing attitude, on this problem of full employment, is different. The danger perhaps is of excessive optimism.

13. This optimism of economists is based largely on acceptance of the Keynesian analysis of the factors determining demand for labour, and of the absence of any simple painless mechanism for adjusting savings and investment.

The Experience of War

15. The experience of war reinforces the analysis of the economists. When critics express doubts as to the possibility of abolishing unemployment, the simple answer is that in Britain and in most other countries where it was once most serious, unemployment has been abolished twice in the lifetime of most people now living--in the First World War and in the second World War. Even more impressive is the way in which war presents itself in the United States--as an agency which raises the national income, that is to say, the national output of goods and services, to unprecedented heights--from the depression nadir of 40 billions in 1932 to 75 billions in 1937 and 135 billions in 1943. The later figures are swollen by rise of prices, but none the less represent a remarkable rise of real income, uncomplicated by need to allow for 'lend-lease'.

16. How is this done? The essence of the process is that the State sets up a schedule of needs in order of priority, substituting its own preferences in production for those of the individual undertaker, and clothes those needs with purchasing power so as to make them into effective demand. The State is prepared to spend without limit in getting full and over-full employment.

1. Paul A. Samuelson, in *Post-War Economic Problems*, edited by Seymour Harris (McGraw Hill Book Company, New York 1943) p.37

The Investment Approach

22. A very common approach to the problem of full employment today is from the side of investment. It is pointed out that the main recurrent cause of mass unemployment is cyclical fluctuation which affects primarily investment industries, namely those making instruments and materials of production. The activity of the consumer goods industries is relatively stable, while the activity of capital goods or investment goods industries is highly unstable; such instability as appears in the former is mainly induced by the instability of the latter. From this the inference is often drawn that the primary objective of a full employment policy should be the stabilisation of investment.

Criticism of Investment Approach

25. First, investment leads to the production either of marketable consumers' goods and services or of non-marketable goods and services. The first is futile unless there is a market, i.e. unless consumers have steadily expanding purchasing power and want the goods and services their demand will bring about the necessary investment without any special steps being taken by the State. The second form of investment evades the difficulty of needing to find a market for the product of investment. But it is open to two other objectives.

(1) The scope of such investment is narrow--the kinds of labour that can be employed by means of producing unmarketable goods and services (i.e. roads, schools, parks and other public works) are limited. If fluctuation of private investment covering the whole range of durable goods industries is assumed to continue, 'public works' of the types named cannot be relied on to offset this fluctuation, except by assuming also an impracticable fluidity of labour.

(2) The products of such investment are not as urgently needed as many marketable goods. The needs of citizens for adequate housing, nutritive food and clothing rank before roads and schools. To give them roads and schools, first in order to evade the difficulty of expanding consumers' purchasing power (directly or by powering of prices) is a failure of social policy.

International Aspects

34. For obvious reasons, in any discussion of post-war problems in Britain, the prospects for international trade play a leading part. International trade is significant for all countries as a means of raising the standard of living by division of labour: it is of peculiar importance to Britain since Britain with her present economic structure must have large imports of raw materials and food from abroad and in the immediate aftermath of war must have greatly increased exports. Any full discussion of the problem of international trade in relation to a policy of full productive employment in Britain would require another Memorandum at least equal to the present Memorandum in length and probably materially longer. Here only a few general points of view can be indicated.

35. From the British point of view (and, it is suggested, from the point of view of the world as a whole) some restoration of an international multilateral system of trade in substitution for bilateral bargains and spasmodic controls and interferences is

the most desirable thing. Any such international system involves the reestablishment of some form of international currency or of organised relation between national currencies. This is the subject both of the British scheme for an international clearing house associated with the name of Lord Keynes and the American scheme associated with the name of Mr. White.

36. The ideal system, for the world as a whole as for Britain, would be a true international system administered by an international authority both for clearing and for lending and applying in the international sphere the principle which should be applied in the national sphere; that, so long as there is any unemployment, the remedy for deficient effective demand for goods should be not restriction of supply but expansion of demand by suitable financial arrangements. It is clear, however, that the possibility of any full international clearing and lending system is problematic. Britain, while working for such a system, must be prepared to make the best of a world in which full international cooperation is not achieved, must hope for the best from other countries, must be prepared for less than the best, meanwhile must do the best herself.

37. The practical general conclusions are:

(a) Britain should herself adopt a full employment policy. That is the greatest and most necessary contribution for any one country to make to full employment in the world as a whole. Failure in any powerful economic country to adopt a full employment policy, is almost certain to aggravate the difficulties of other countries, by exposing them to the contagion of cyclical depressions.

(b) Britain should explore with other countries the possibilities and methods of international cooperation of various stages of completeness for making international trade as large and as steady as possible, but should not at the outset of these discussions give pledges or assent to general principles which would prevent her from making the best of a relatively bad world.

6th September 1943

W. H. BEVERIDGE

Donovan. Ltr 12, 1944
Frank

1 March 1944.

Major General Frank Parker,
Executive Director,
Illinois War Council,
188 West Randolph Street,
Chicago 1, Illinois.

Dear General Parker:

I have your letter about Mr. Leo
Bennigsen and the personal history statement
for him which you were kind enough to furnish
us.

Bennigsen seems to have unusual
qualifications and I am hopeful that we shall
be able to find a place for him. I shall pass
on his file to our Personnel Procurement offi-
cers who will be in a position to determine
whether there are any openings in which his
abilities could be utilized. In making this
determination I shall ask them to bear in mind
your endorsement of him.

Thank you for having called
Mr. Bennigsen to our attention. We are always
glad to hear of any person who may be of use to
us.

Very sincerely yours,

William J. Donovan,
Director.

WJD:rlc



ILLINOIS WAR COUNCIL
GOVERNOR DWIGHT H. GREEN
CHAIRMAN
188 WEST RANDOLPH STREET
TELEPHONE DEARBORN 0830
CHICAGO 1

MURRAY M. BAKER
VICE-CHAIRMAN

MAJOR GENERAL FRANK PARKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 25, 1944

Brigadier General Donovan
Office of Strategic Services
Washington, D. C.

My dear General Donovan:

It has occurred to me that this man, whose record I inclose, may be of use to your organization. He was my assistant secretary 1929-1933 when I was in command of this Corps Area and the 2d Army. He is highly educated, a gentleman, equally at home in English and Russian and a good French scholar.

He desires to serve and should be useful to your organization. He made a fine record with me.

Very sincerely yours,

Frank Parker

FP:k
1 Enclosure

1944 FEB 25 BW 4 25

LEO BENNIGSEN.Personal History.Family History.

Born February 19, 1903, in St. Petersburg, Russia. Father, Count George Bennigsen, served in Preobrazhensky Regiment, Imperial Russian Guards. At outbreak of World War I he was captured by the Germans in the battle of Tannenberg while serving as a Major in the 1st Infantry Regiment. Upon his release as a prisoner he came to England in 1918 and enlisted as a Private in the British Army. He was later commissioned as a Captain and transferred to the Murmansk front where he was promoted to Major and was awarded the Croix de Guerre and Military Cross. Both he and my Mother are residing in Cambridge, England. The family has a military background, its Russian founder, Count Levin Bennigsen, having successfully fought against Napoleon at the battles of Pultusk, Eylau and Leipzig, and unsuccessfully at Friedland. He was my great-great-grandfather.

Education.

Grammar school education partially completed in St. Petersburg, Russia, until our departure therefrom in 1918. Took home training and passed matriculation examination for the University of London in 1920. Two years at King's College, University of London, Faculty of Arts. Did not graduate as I had to leave college and go to work. Also took two years business training (evening school) at the London Polytechnic Institute with a view of passing the Institute of Bankers examinations. This was a four year course which was cut short by my departure for America.

Business Experience.

Two years, 1922-1924, with A. Ruffer & Sons, London, a commercial banking house, in the capacity of bookkeeper.
10 months as bookkeeper in the 1st National Bank of Aurora, Aurora, Ill., 1924.
10 years with Sears, Roebuck and Co., in various capacities, i.e.: department manager, assistant manager, auditor. I am at present auditor of the Aurora, Ill., store.
Present earnings: \$ 3500.00 per annum.

Military Service.

Served in the United States Army from Dec. 9, 1924 to Dec. 8, 1933, inclusive.
Discharged as Sergeant, 2nd Machine Gun Squadron, Ft. Bliss, Texas. 12/8/27.
Discharged as Pfc. Spec.1cl. Hq. Det. 6th Corps Area, Chicago, Ill. 12/8/30.
Discharged as Staff Sgt. DEM. (OR) Hq. 6th Corps Area, Chicago, Ill. 12/8/33.
During the period 1929 - 1933 I served as translator and assistant secretary to Major General Frank Parker, Corps Area Commander.
My Army papers show my birthplace to have been Aurora, Ill., in lieu of St. Petersburg, Russia. This was done on the advice of a recruiting Sergeant in 1924, when I first enlisted. He informed me that I could pass myself off as an American for the purpose of enlistment and could then take out my papers. After enlistment I found that it was not so simple a matter to take out my papers.
I have written a letter to the Adjutant General of the Army informing him of the correct birthplace and requesting that my records be changed.

Miscellaneous Information.

I have an excellent knowledge of the Russian language which I speak, read and write fluently. I also have a good knowledge of French, especially reading. I can also understand it very well, but do not speak it very fluently. The latter can be easily corrected by some practice. My knowledge of German extends to two years' at school. With some brushing up it would be better than average.

I was naturalized in the Aurora City Court on Feb. 16, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

Berg, Morris 14-44

Lt. Colonel Dix
SI Branch
Lt. Putzell

18 August 1944

In accordance with the Acting Director's request I have talked with Colonel Hoffman, Chief, SO Branch who immediately agreed to the transfer of Mr. Moe Berg from the staff of SO Branch to that of SI Branch, effectively immediately.

Copies of this memorandum are being sent to Colonel Hoffman and to Special Funds Branch.

E. J. Putzell, Jr.
Lt. (j.g.) USNR
Assistant Executive Officer

CC: Colonel Hoffman
Special Funds Branch
Files

CONFIDENTIAL

Berg, Morris - 14.2.44

SECRET

14 April 1944

MEMORANDUM TO Mr. Morris Berg

SUBJECT: Orders

You are hereby authorized and directed to proceed to the destinations indicated in your invitation Army orders, where you will report on your arrival to the respective Strategic Services Officers for the purpose of performing the duties assigned to you by this Agency.

William J. Donovan
Director, OSS

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

14,608
Bergson, Abram

24 March 1945

TO: General Donovan
FROM: Lt. Col. J. H. Rosenbaum *W*

Dr. Lubin has requested the loan of the services of Mr. Abram Bergson, who works for Dr. G. T. Robinson in R & A. If agreeable, Mr. Bergson would go as one of Dr. Lubin's staff on the Reparations Commission. The request was made by Dr. Lubin for the loan of Mr. Bergson's services for a three-month period. Through Mr. Ream the matter is being taken up with Dr. G. T. Robinson.

CONFIDENTIAL

14,638
CONFIDENTIAL

24 March 1948

TO: General Donovan
FROM: Lt. Col. J. H. Rosenbaum

Dr. Lubin has requested the loan of the services of Mr. Abram Bergson, who works for Dr. G. T. Robinson in R & A. If agreeable, Mr. Bergson would go as one of Dr. Lubin's staff on the Reparations Commission. The request was made by Dr. Lubin for the loan of Mr. Bergson's services for a three-month period. Through Mr. Ream the matter is being taken up with Dr. G. T. Robinson.

jhr/epa

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Top ↑

100-1000-10010
 15 January 45
 Mr. O'Connell
 Marian:
 A copy of the attached
 letter of 11 January from the
 State Department concerning Mr.
 Bergson has been sent to Mr.
 Langer with the request that he
 notify the Department when Mr.
 Bergson is ready to report.
 WA
 JW
 Office of the Secretariat

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Exposure is 1/25 @ f.6.3

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

JAN 12 1945

In reply refer to
DP

My dear General Donovan:

Reference is made to your letter of December 7, 1944 to Mr. G. Howland Shaw concerning the reimbursable loan of Mr. Abram Bergson to the Department of State.

Your understanding as to the purpose of Mr. Bergson's detail to this Department is correct in every respect. In order to expedite the work, it would be helpful if the loan could become effective as soon as possible, and I shall greatly appreciate it if you will inform me of the earliest date it will be possible for Mr. Bergson to report to the Department of State for this assignment.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of States

Dean Acheson

Dean Acheson
Assistant Secretary

Brigadier General William J. Donovan,
Director,
Office of Strategic Services,
Washington, D. C.



cc. to Dr. Langer.

Top ↑

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Exposure is $\frac{1}{25}$ @ f.6.3

100-1056
 1 State Dept

7 December 1944

Honorable G. Howland Shaw
 Assistant Secretary
 Department of State
 Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Shaw:

I have given very careful consideration to your letter of 23 November 1944, suggesting that the services of Mr. Abram Bergson be made available to the Department of State to the extent of one-third of his time for an indefinite period, on the basis of a reimbursable loan.

This suggested arrangement has been the subject of various conversations between representatives of this Office and the Department of State. It is our understanding, on the basis of these conversations, that the chief purpose of the proposed arrangement would be to enable Mr. Bergson to maintain a close connection between the USSR Division of the Office and the Department, and to facilitate a maximum utilization of the large research staff of the USSR Division, and particularly of its Economic Subdivision, in the study of Russian economic problems that arise in connection with the operations of the Department.

If our understanding of this matter is in any way at variance with your own, we should greatly appreciate your comment, as a basis for the further consideration of the projected arrangement.

If the understanding, as above stated, is correct, we shall be very glad to have the proposed arrangement take effect immediately if you so desire.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Donovan
 Director

14,65814

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SECRET
11 12
1944 DEC 6 PM 24

CONFIDENTIAL

5 December 1944

OSS

MEMORANDUM

TO : Lt. Auchincloss
FROM : William L. Langer

In accordance with your request of 28 November, I send herewith proposed draft of reply from General Donovan to Mr. Howland Shaw in regard to the State Department's request for the services of Mr. Bergson.

William L. Langer
William L. Langer
Chief, Research and
Analysis Branch

attachments

Top ↑

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Exposure is $\frac{1}{25}$ @ f.6.3

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 25



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
DP

NOV 23 1944

My dear General Donovan:

The Department of State is very desirous of having the services of Mr. Abram Bergson, who at the present time serves as Chief of the Economic Sub-division, Union of Socialist Soviet Republics Division, P-7, \$6500 per annum, Office of Strategic Services, for special work in the Division of Financial and Monetary Affairs.

The loan to the Department of State of Mr. Bergson's services at the earliest possible date to the extent of one third of his time for an indefinite period of time would be greatly appreciated. The Office of Strategic Services would be reimbursed by the Department of State for one-third of the salary which Mr. Bergson receives from the Office of Strategic Services, namely, \$6500 per annum, plus overtime compensation allowed by law, from appropriation for salaries, Department of State.

Mr. Bergson would serve in the Division of Financial and Monetary Affairs as Consultant on Russian economic problems, especially in the fields of reconstruction and rehabilitation, and finance, as well as Russian interests in the reconstruction and other economic problems of Central and Southwestern Europe. Because of his background and experience he appears to have excellent qualifications for the work which the Department desires him to perform.

If



Brigadier General William J. Donovan,
Director, Office of Strategic Services,
25th and L Streets, Northwest,
Washington, D. C.

- 2 -

If you approve Mr. Bergson's detail to the Department of State under the conditions set forth above, I shall appreciate being informed. You should also let me know the date he could report to the Department of State for duty.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

G. Howland Shaw

G. Howland Shaw
Assistant Secretary

Bergson, Abram 14,658
War Dept.

4 July 1944

The Honorable Henry L. Stimson
 Secretary of War
 War Department
 Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your letter of 30 June in which you state that the part-time services of Dr. Abram Bergson of our USSR Division are desired by the Army Industrial College on a reimbursable loan basis.

Your letter has been referred to the Chief of the USSR Division for his consideration. I am happy to say that he is agreeable to releasing Dr. Bergson to the Army Industrial College one day a week for twelve weeks on reimbursable loan, providing some unforeseen emergency in the Economics Subdivision, of which Dr. Bergson is Chief, does not require his presence here throughout any given week. I trust that this single reservation will be acceptable to the Army Industrial College, as we should be only too pleased to be of service in the formulation of its courses.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Donovan
 Director

GTRobinson:MR

GTR

14,658

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

SECRETARIAT
INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Major J. J. Monigan 1944 JUL 5 PM 3 11/1
FROM: William L. Langer
SUBJECT: Dr. Abram Bergson

OSS

In accordance with your request of 30 June, I send you attached hereto a draft of a proposed reply from General Donovan to Secretary Stimson with reference to his request for the part-time services of Dr. Bergson. I also return herewith the copy of Mr. Stimson's letter to the General which you forwarded to me.

William L. Langer
William L. Langer
Chief, Research and
Analysis Branch

attachments

14.658
Bergson Dr
Wan Dep

30 June 1944

Dr. Langer

Secretariat

Dr. Abram Bergson

Would you consider the attached letter from the
Secretary of War and prepare a reply for Colonel Buxton's
signature.

J. J. Menigan
Major, CAC

Attachment:
Ltr. from Secretary of War of 30 June

JJM:mr

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

14658
Bergson
Russian Dept
recd. 30 June, 1944

Brigadier General William J. Donovan,
Office of Strategic Services,
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Donovan:

The services of Dr. Abram Bergson, Chief of the Russian Division, Office of Strategic Services, P-6, \$5600 per annum, are desired on reimbursable detail for one or two days a week for a period of approximately twelve weeks.

Dr. Bergson's knowledge of the economic and industrial situation in the Soviet Union will be of assistance to the Army Industrial College of the War Department in formulating its courses.

If the Office of Strategic Services concurs in this request, the Office of the Secretary of War will submit a certified statement of Dr. Bergson's attendance on the basis of which the Office of Strategic Services should submit vouchers to the Office of the Personnel Manager, Office of the Secretary of War.

Sincerely yours,

Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War.



WDOWB Ext. 3333
ISO/feb

Brigadier General William J. Donovan,
Office of Strategic Services,
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Donovan:

The services of Dr. Abram Bergson, Chief of the Russian Division, Office of Strategic Services, P-6, \$1000 per annum, are desired on reimbursable detail for one or two days a week for a period of approximately twelve weeks.

Dr. Bergson's knowledge of the economic and industrial situation in the Soviet Union will be of assistance to the Army Industrial College of the War Department in formulating its program.

If the Office of Strategic Services concurs in this request, the Office of the Secretary of War will submit a certified statement of Dr. Bergson's attendance on the basis of which the Office of Strategic Services should submit vouchers to the Office of the Personnel Manager, Office of the Secretary of War.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of War.

SECRET

OSS Form 3057

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO:

Re: (15) Thomas L. Beyer

Beyer

DATE: 27 April 1946

SUBJECT: OSS Orders

1. You are hereby authorized and directed to proceed to the destination indicated in your official travel orders, where you will report to the Strategic Services Officer, for duty with the III Branch (Office or Branch). You will thereafter act under his orders and direction.

William J. Donovan
(~~Executive~~ Director)

APPROVED:

APPROVED:

Thomas L. Beyer, Sr. ~~Chief~~
Chief, III

J. H. Scribner
Deputy Director, OSS

Edward M. Ladd, Jr.
Chief, I & II Theatre Officer

SECRET

(38862)

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTEROFFICE MEMO

DATE: 24 July 1944

TO: General Donovan
 FROM: Colonel Connely
 SUBJECT: Sgt. Elizabeth Bennett

General Roberts, G-3 just phoned me to say that he had discussed the release of Sgt. Bennett with those "in authority" and that he had been "flatly turned down". I told him that I didn't think there was much more that we could do since he had exerted his good influence in our behalf. However, if you think we ought to, it seems to me about the only way left would be for you to call General Handy. I think if I called him that General Roberts would feel up set about it. The other angle is perhaps to let the matter drop for a while and then make another request.

5
 Connely 7/20
 notified JG

[Signature]
 H. F. G.

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTEROFFICE MEMO

DATE: 20 July 1944

TO: General Donovan
FROM: Colonel Connely
SUBJECT: T/Sgt Bennett, Elizabeth

This morning I went over to see General Roberts under whom Sgt. Bennett serves and I told him that you had met the Sgt. and was quite taken with her alertness and enthusiasm and felt that if it was possible to get her that she would fit admirably in a job under Colonel Davis. General Roberts was most understanding and said he would like very much to agree to your request if it could be done. He stated that he had a difficult problem because of the fact that he has to get rid of his enlisted man and he is losing a master sergeant and plans to use Sgt. Bennett in his place. I really think he will make a sincere effort to comply with your request.

✓

H. S. C.

AC

BE

JUN 1901
 June 1901
 688
 Filed
 Light Beads
 will send a
 cable to the
 field
 regarding that
 matter & notify
 all concerned
 Bureau regarding its
 general typewrite
 for purchase to avoid
 call them for as
 Office of the Secretary
 F.F.P.

Even No. rolls

Exposure is $\frac{1}{25}$ @ f.6.3

Top ↑

For Glavin from Secretariat, 15855-
German, 11/16/46

Please ~~convey~~ ~~inform~~
~~not Lt. Jack C. Berman~~
convey our deepest sympathy to 1st
Lt. Jack C. Berman, SI. Red
Cross notified Hq. and Hq. Det
that his father died 12:30 AM,
16 Dec from heart attack.

Exposure is 1/25 @ f.6.3

Top ↑

WU 1256 NE PD

LOS ANGELES CALIF DEC 15 1944

COMMANDING GENERAL

DEC STRATEGIC SVCS

REQUEST EMERGENCY LEAVE FIRST LT JACK C BERMAN O-1035654
 APO 41 AS HIS FATHER IS CRITICALLY ILL WITH HYPERTENSIVE
 HEART DISEASE CONGESTED HEART FAILURE AND PULMONARY EDEMA
 LT BERMAN IS THE ONLY CHILD
 DR LOUIS A ESHMAN 1114 ALTA LOMA RD
 922P

O-1035654 412 1114

Exposure is 1/25 @ f.6.3

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

DATE 23 FEBRUARY 1945

IN 5325

FROM TEKHI, NEW DELHI

PRECEDENCE

TO OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

ACTION O'GARA

INFORMATION

DIRECTOR, SECRETARIAT, MAGRUDER, BIGELOW, FIELD SECTION,
HQ. DET.

RECEIVED IN CODE OR CIPHER

SECRET*15, 854*
Bernad, Col. Harry

#17277. TEKHI-WASHINGTON.

YORKER FROM IRWIN. INFORMATION: COUGHLIN (KANDY #8207),
PEERS, MCGEE (CALCUTTA X #1367) AND HEPNER (CHUNGKING
#2877).

PER PARAGRAPH 1 SPECIAL ORDER 53 HQ. USFIBT APO 885

DATED 22 FEBRUARY 1945 LIEUT. COLONEL HARRY L. BERNO PROMOTED
TO FULL COLONEL.

TDR: 0833 23 FEB 45

SECRET**FILE COPY**IT IS FORBIDDEN TO COPY OR REPRODUCE THIS CABLE
WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE SECRETARIAT.

PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER CO., DAYTON 1, OHIO, U. S. A.

OSS
Form 69 (Revised)

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

12 FEBRUARY 45

DATE

FROM

SIGEX, KANDY

PRIORITY

ROUTINE

DEFERRED

TO

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

DISTRIBUTION

IN-4103

(FOR ACTION)

(FOR INFORMATION)

SECRETARIAT

DIRECTOR, FIELD SECTION, O'GARA

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-57089-2

RECEIVED IN CODE OR CIPHER

S E C R E T

SECRET

#14517. Coughlin to 109.

Anxiously awaiting approval of promotion to Colonel of
Lt. Col. Harry L. Berne.

TOR: 0844 12 FEB 45

P. F. COPY

SECRET

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO COPY OR REPRODUCE THIS CABLE
WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE SECRETARIAT

032
Form 58 (Revised)

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

DATE 12 FEBRUARY 45

REC'D 0904 13 FEB 45

TO SIGEX, RANDY

X PRIORITY

ROUTINE

FROM

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

DEFERRED

OUT 3587

DISTRIBUTION

(CONFIRMATION TO ORIGINATOR)

DIRECTOR ✓

(FOR INFORMATION)

SECRETARIAT, O'GARA, BIGELOW,
MAGRUDER, FIELD SECTION, HQ.DET.,
SI.

TRANSMITTED IN CODE OR CIPHER

SECRET

#14887. To Coughlin from 109.

Recommended promotion ~~Barne~~ to grade of Colonel approved.

Submit necessary papers to Theater Commander.

DD: 0943

13 FEB 45

COPY

WJD

INITIALS OF "RELEASING" OFFICER

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO COPY OR REPRODUCE THIS CABLE
WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Form 61 (Revised)

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

DATE 31 January 1945

FROM

SIGEX, KANDY

TO

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

PRIORITY

ROUTINE

DEFERRED

IN 2905

DISTRIBUTION

(FOR ACTION)

(FOR INFORMATION)

DIRECTOR

SECRETARIAT, GOODFELLOW,
FIELD SECTION

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 10-37333-2

RECEIVED IN CODE OR CIPHER

SECRET

SECRET

#13597. Coughlin to Cheston and Goodfellow.

Request authorization to promote Lt. Col. Harry L. Berns who has performed outstandingly as temporary commander of Detachment 404 and will shortly assume duties as Deputy on P Division. The sooner this authorization is granted the stronger our position will be and it is urged the case be expedited. 109 concurs.

In grade since Oct. 1, 1943
cable sent.

SECRET

TON: 0331 31 Jan 45

FILE COPY

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO COPY OR REPRODUCE THIS CABLE
WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Sent initially to Cpl. Heppner only

PARAPHRASE OF STATE DEPARTMENT CABLE (by P. L. Ward)

Secretary of State
Washington

Colombo
December 11
362

TOP SECRET

Lt. Commander Taylor sends the following Top Secret message for the eyes of Donovan, Heppner, and Coughlin of OSS only:

I strongly urge that recommendation be made for the promotion of Berno to the rank of full Colonel. I feel that he has displayed outstanding ability as an administrator and outstanding leadership in managing this detachment, and that he is eligible for this promotion.

This promotion is particularly to be desired since it would frustrate a political maneuver by the British designed to place ^{Berno} him under obligation to them in place of to OSS. In the presence of Berno, Mountbatten asked Wheeler to have Berno promoted upon Berno's assumption of duties in the P Division. The decision to turn the P Division into a regular section of the staff, with all its appointments carried on the TO of SEAC, apparently will be taken soon. The officers of P Division were carried hitherto on the tables of their respective secret organizations.

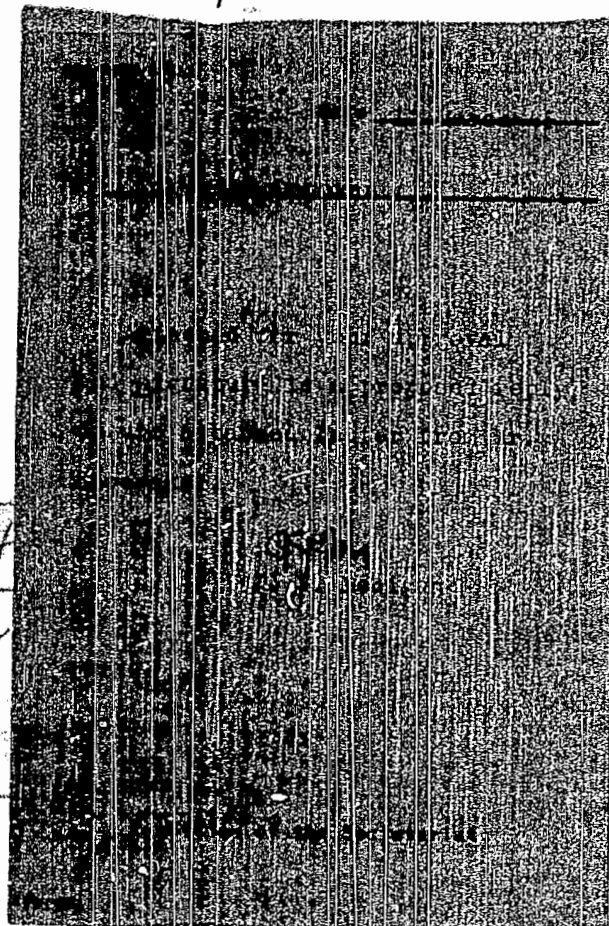
I recommend further the retention of Berno at 404 for a few weeks after Coughlin's arrival, as required for the sake of Coughlin's being advised on administrative matters.

Garnon [sic] Williams has departed for London for consultations with clandestine chiefs.

DUPLICATE

cc Gen. Donovan
Cpl. Heppner
Cpl. Coughlin

Top ↑



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Even No. rolls

Exposure is $\frac{1}{25}$ @ f.6.3

16, 326
 Beaten, Gysbert den
 x Costendorp, Etienne
 x Justen, Dept of
 x Visa

12 March 1945

Mr. T. B. Shoemaker
 Acting Commissioner
 Immigration and Naturalization Service
 Department of Justice
 Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania

My dear Mr. Shoemaker:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of 2 March 1945 concerning Etienne Costendorp and Gysbert den Beaten. Through inadvertence, and unknown to Lt. Goff of this organization, the matter of their clearance with the Department of State had not been completed prior to their arrival at Boston.

We have informed the State Department of all the circumstances, and they have advised us that the entry of Messrs. Costendorp and den Beaten now has the Department's approval. Notification of this approval will undoubtedly be sent to your organization by the Department of State.

I deeply regret the inconvenience which this matter has caused your service.

Sincerely,

William J. Donovan
 Director

JJH:egp

SECRET16,324
Beane, Gilbert

8 March 1945

Mr. Howard K. Travers
Chief, Visa Division
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Travers:

Since my letter of 3 March, I have caused a careful investigation to be made into the circumstances of the arrival in this country of Etienne Gostendorp and Gybert Dan Besten.

Unfortunately, the person in this agency who, in the absence of Miss Feldman, was charged with the responsibility of obtaining State Department clearance for their entry failed to communicate with the Department. His failure in this respect was wholly unjustifiable, and no satisfactory explanation of his omission is possible.

The persons in this agency concerned with cases of this kind have been reminded of the importance of following established procedures, and I feel confident that there will not be a repetition of the incident.

May I again express my deep regret for this inconvenience to the Department.

Sincerely yours,

Charles S. Cheston
Assistant Director

SECRET

SECRET

16,326

Besten Gysbert den
 Costendorp, Etienne
 Justice Dept
 3 March 1945

X Visa

Mr. Howard M. Travers
 Chief, Visa Division
 Department of State
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Travers:

I have learned of your conversation with Miss Feldman concerning the arrival in this country of Etienne Costendorp and Gysbert den Besten. It will be appreciated if the Department of State would issue a waiver of visa for each of the above mentioned Dutch nationals. They arrived at Boston on 27 February. Both had in their possession Dutch passports and travelled on American military orders, after having been issued British exit permits and clearance by British and Dutch security authorities.

I deeply regret the misunderstanding which resulted in apparent failure to request a waiver prior to the entrance of these individuals into this country. A preliminary investigation reveals that the failure resulted from a misunderstanding between the Bureau to whom these individuals were to be assigned, and our Transportation Office. I have directed a thorough investigation into all the circumstances.

Our regret is especially keen because of the many courtesies which the Visa Division of the Department of State has extended to us in the past. We have tried to be meticulous in following your procedures, and I am determined to find out just what went wrong in this case.

I should be grateful if you would advise us when the requested waiver has been issued and the Immigration authorities advised.

Sincerely yours,

Charles S. Cheston
 Acting Director

SECRET

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 7, 1945

In reply refer to
A-H

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear General Donovan:

Recently the Office of Strategic Services has been instrumental in the entrance of Etienne Oostendorp and Jysbert den Besten, nationals of the Netherlands, into the United States without visas of any kind and without a waiver from the Department of State. The persons mentioned above arrived at Boston on a Navy transport, having been previously discharged from the Netherlands armed forces, and were evidently sent to this country for six months' training with the idea that they would later be sent to the Pacific war area. The immigration office at Boston reported the matter to the Commissioner of Immigration at Philadelphia, stating that they had arrived without permission to enter the United States and the Department of State was asked for a waiver. The Department replied that it would not waive for these individuals until it knew more about them. In the meantime, Lt. Goff, U.S.N., of the Transport Section of OSS, took the matter up with the immigration officials and the men were admitted without further examination.

My office was advised informally by Mr. Richard Southgate of the Office of Strategic Services that a mistake had been made in procuring the admission of the two aliens without taking up the matter with the Department of State and that the mistake was regretted. Mr. Southgate also gave assurance that there would be no repetition of the error.

I

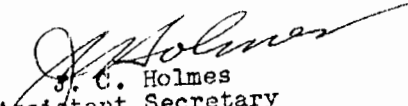
Major General William J. Donovan,
The Director,
Office of Strategic Services.



-2-

I appreciate the promptness with which your office communicated with the Department, and I trust that in the future OSS will consult beforehand with the Department of State regarding any aliens whom it may desire to bring into the United States.

Sincerely yours,


J. C. Holmes
Assistant Secretary



Top ↑

Colonel Kirk will be back in his
office after 4 o'clock if you wish
to discuss the attached with him.

HP
OK, B. 2
USA F. 3
APR 4 B

Even No. rolls

Exposure is 1/25 @ f.6.3

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

16,326
Boston, Gyeberden

MR. CHESTON 5 March 1945

TO: Lt. Col. James W. Kirk
FROM: Thomas Damberg
SUBJECT: Oostendorp and Den Besten

It is our usual procedure to check on all aliens leaving or coming to this country with the State Department by clearing them through Special Relations.

The proper channel is for the branch to take necessary action with Special Relations and inform Transportation Office accordingly.

In this case the branch telephoned me and I failed to contact Special Relations due to unfortunate circumstances.

Attac is a report from Lt. Goff who met the men on their arrival in Boston believing all was in order.

16,326

5 March 1945

When I first contacted the vessel the morning of the disembarkation 28 February I found that the Dutch personnel under the control of Major Borst were being detained by the Immigration Services. I went to the table where they were working on this case and exclaimed: "These people were supposed to have been cleared in Washington a week ago." They explained to me that they had already put through a call to the State Department in Washington and were awaiting a reply. I then went about my normal duties debarking the remaining personnel and then returned. The time lapse was approximately one and one-half hours. The Immigration representatives were at lunch in the same room, which was the dining salon, and I asked them if they would allow me to have the Dutchmen have their baggage cleared by the Customs Inspectors, this on the advice of the head inspector for customs they agreed. I then took their baggage to the pier and it was cleared and the Dutchmen returned to the dining salon. About this time I asked one of the two Immigration men if they would let me take them to Washington pending clearance from the State Department, and that if they wanted to get in touch with these people in case of any technicalities involved they could contact me here in Washington, and I would comply with anything they would request of me, in this regard, and that in all probabilities the State Department would clear them and that nothing would be gained by waiting around there any longer. The inspector thought that he would call his immediate superior and get the answer, which he did and they said that it would be alright for them to proceed. At no time do I recall saying that these Dutch personnel had been cleared by the State Department. However, I did tell Major Borst that everything was alright in this regard, because I had been told that this had been taken care of before I left Washington. So, that if, at any time I did give any one the impression that they had been cleared, I was acting in accordance with instructions given to me.

Edward J. Gaff
Lt Lt T.C.

- Ugo Carnesi

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
COMMISSIONER

56044/958-B

Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Philadelphia ²

March 2, 1945

Brig. Gen. William J. Donovan, Director
Office of Strategic Services
Twenty-fifth and E Streets
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Donovan:

I wish to invite your attention to the cases of Gysbert den Besten and Etienne Oostendorp, Netherlands subjects who arrived at Boston on February 28th on a Navy Transport.

From information furnished by officers of this Service at Boston, it appears that the aliens in question had been discharged from the Netherlands Army for the purpose of coming to the United States for six months' training with your organization in Washington, that they were not in possession of American visas for admission to the United States as required by law but that entry was permitted on representations made by Lieutenant Edward Goff of your office that the travel had been authorized by Major General Vaughan and the matter of their admission had been cleared with the State Department prior to the aliens' arrival.

It has now been ascertained that the visa requirements had not been waived by the State Department, making the entry of the aliens unlawful and their continued stay in this country in violation of the immigration laws.

Undoubtedly, your office will desire to take the matter up with the State Department with a view to obtaining a waiver of the visa requirements and thus correcting the immigration status of the two individuals concerned.

I will appreciate hearing from you in the matter at your convenience in order that we may be able to clear our records in the case.

Sincerely yours,

T. B. Shoemaker
T. B. Shoemaker
Acting Commissioner



SECRET

14,386

Bensaude

Colonel Pfaff

17 March 1945

Lt. Thur

With reference to your memorandum of 11 March relating to inquiry by the FBI concerning Jose Bensaude, General Donovan wants your liaison channels to transmit to the FBI the following memorandum:

MEMORANDUM**SUBJECT: Jose Bensaude**

Jose Bensaude was never employed by OSS in the sense that he was on the payroll of this Agency or directly compensated for certain assistance which he rendered us. He did collaborate with and assist us on a project which involved using, in some measure, the facilities of the Flomarc Company. This project was subsequently abandoned through no fault of Bensaude's, but due principally to the changing course of the War. His association with OSS ceased at this time simply because he was considered no longer useful to us.

Although we believe that Bensaude's interests and loyalties are with the Allied cause, it is believed that in an inquiry of this sort his unsupported statements should not be accepted as conclusive.

RT

SECRET

SECRET

ENCLOSURE NO. 1

STANDARD NO. 1

DATE: 1/1/57

[Handwritten notes and signatures in the top right corner of the grid area.]

[Faint, mostly illegible text within the grid area, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

SECRET

MEMORANDUM

14 March 1945

SECRET

TO: Col. O. C. Doering

SUBJECT: Jose Bensaude

REFERENCE: Lt. Col. Pfaff's memorandum to Director,
11 March 1945

1. It is suggested that a reply along the following lines be made to the inquiry of the FBI:

"Jose Bensaude was never employed by OSS in the sense that he was on the payroll of this Agency or directly compensated for certain assistance which he rendered us. He did collaborate with and assist us on a project which involved using, in some measure, the facilities of the Flomarcy Company. This project was subsequently abandoned through no fault of Bensaude's, but due principally to the changing course of the War. His association with OSS ceased at this time simply because he was considered no longer useful to us."

2. You might also wish to add:

"Although we believe that Bensaude's interests and loyalties ^{are} ~~genuinely~~ ^{are} with the Allied cause, it is believed that in an inquiry of this sort his unsupported statements should not be accepted as conclusive."

Duncan C. Lee
Duncan C. Lee
Major, AUS

I concur

O.C.W.

SECRET

SECRETOFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

11 March 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL DONOVAN

FROM

Roger A. Pfaff, Lt. Col., Inf. *Post*
Acting Chief, X-2 Branch

SUBJECT

Jose Bensauade

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has made a request to this Branch through its liaison channels for information concerning the subject.

The representative of the FBI stated that it was their understanding that subject was formerly employed by OSS and that his firm, Flomarcy and Company, Incorporated, New York City, had been used as a cover.

Their reason for making this request is that they intend to obtain information from the subject who is a friend of one Manuel Pinto de Mesquita Lello, a suspected German agent, who arrived in Philadelphia in February 1945.

Specifically, they desire information concerning the reason for termination of his employment by OSS and his reliability.

This request was brought to the attention of Mr. Van Buren, Chief of the Security Office, who suggested that this matter be taken up with the Director's Office directly.

To OC Drawing -

That you advise me on this

S.

SECRET

1281
Benson R
Fackenthal

18 August 1945

Professor Frank D. Fackenthal
Columbia University
New York 27, New York

Dear Frank:

I have just returned from the Far East and find
your note concerning Ren Benson.

Under the present circumstances there is no chance,
as reductions are being made throughout. I am sorry I did
not know about it a month ago.

I hope everything goes well with you.

Sincerely,

William J. Donovan
Director

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

13 August 1945

MEMORANDUM *General Donovan*

TO: Lieut. Robert Thrum, USNR
FROM: Lieut. Comdr. B. W. Antell, USNR *BWA*
SUBJECT: Major Reynolds Benson

1. I assume that the Mr. Ben Benson referred to in Professor Fackenthal's letter to General Donovan, is Major Reynolds Benson, formerly Director of Athletics at Columbia University.

2. As Major Benson is 52 years old he would ordinarily be disqualified by the Agency for service in the Far East.

correct
3. In view of our present budgetary restrictions, I assume that we are not in a position to consider him as a civilian as our curtailment of civilian personnel is still in progress.

B. W. A.

Attachment

Top ↑

OSS Form 4151

Date 31 July 1946

To: Commander Antell

Does any need exist for
an officer of the type indi-
cated by the attached sketchy
account?

Outs
cars
the

RT
Robert Thrun

Office of the Executive Officer

E
(30449)

Exposure is 1/25 @ f.6.3

17.2761
Benson

31 July 1946

Professor Frank D. Fackenthal
Columbia University in the
City of New York
New York 27, N. Y.

Dear Professor Fackenthal:

Your letter of 27 July arrived
in General Donovan's absence from the country.
I have referred it to our Personnel Division
to see if any need exists for an officer of
Mr. Benson's qualifications.

I shall also bring your letter to
General Donovan's attention on his return.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Thrun
Acting Executive
Officer



Top ↑

July 30, 1945

Dear "Colonel":

At least this gives me an excuse to say hello and to hope all goes well with you. Mr. Berry is on his vacation now and I am "pinch hitting" for him in such few instances where your personal work needs a little bit of looking after, and although ~~there~~ there is very little to do, I still get a kick out of saying "this is Colonel Donovan's Secretary."

Best Wishes,



Even No. rolls

Exposure is 1/25 @ f.6.3

Columbia University
in the City of New York
[NEW YORK 37, N. Y.]
 PROVOST OF THE UNIVERSITY

11, 271
 Benson, Ren
 1. Fickenthal, Frank

July 27, 1945

Major General William J. Donovan
 2 Wall Street
 New York 5, N. Y.

Dear Bill

Ren Benson just called me on the telephone and asked me for a letter that would assist him in getting his release from the Army. He got back to this country a week ago. It occurs to me that, in the Army as in other organizations, the right hand may not know what the left hand is doing, and that you might be interested in knowing of Ren's availability. He had some experience in Mongolia on an engineering project and may know something about that part of the world. He is entirely foot-loose and is, I think, anxious to get out of the Army before he gets some assignment in this country. He apparently has no liking for stationary Army duty. I am passing all of this on to you in the event that you might have need for a person of his qualifications. How rapidly he can secure a release I do not know, but he is going right after it.

With best regards, I am

Faithfully yours

Frank D. Fickenthal

Frank D. Fickenthal

V3

